

December - 29

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ TN Chief minister inaugurated full-day 'annadhanam' at Kallazhagar temple in Alagarkovil in Madurai, and at Subramaniaswamy temple in Maruthamalai in Coimbatore.
- ❖ The 48th edition of Chennai Book Fair was inaugurated at YMCA Nandanam, Chennai.
- ❖ SWITCH Mobility Ltd (Subsidiary of Ashok Leyland) unveiled its contemporary electric bus platform SWITCH EiV12 – India's first low floor electric city bus for the Indian market.
- ❖ Osamu Suzuki of Japan, the former chairman of Suzuki Motor Corporation and the driving force behind its global expansion, has died recently.
- ❖ The centre has inaugurated around 10,000 newly established Multipurpose Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (MPACS), along with Dairy and Fisheries Cooperative Societies.

## TAMIL NADU

### Draft Tamil Nadu Employment Policy 2023



P.R.D - 16-12-2024

### Tamil Nadu Employment Policy 2023 (Draft)

- Tamil Nadu Employment Policy 2023 (Draft) addresses critical challenges in the current labor market including high unemployment rates among educated youth and a significant gap between education, skills, aspirations and available job opportunities.
- The policy proposes various measures to address these issues and **outlines a 10-year strategy aimed at creating productive jobs and fostering inclusive growth.**
- This approach is essential for raising the median income level and **supporting the state's rapidly growing economy.**

- ❖ It addresses several pressing concerns in the current labour market.

- ❖ Among these are high unemployment rates among the educated youth and a noticeable mismatch between education, skills, aspirations, and the job opportunities.
- ❖ Further, the policy outlines various measures to formulate appropriate solutions.
- ❖ A 10-year strategy for productive jobs and inclusive growth is crucial to raising the median income level and supporting the fast-paced growth of the economy.

### **Draft Tamil Nadu state Water Policy**

- ❖ It is developed with a multi-disciplinary approach, focuses on addressing the state's specific challenges in water management.
- ❖ It outlines the strategies to ensure equitable access to clean water, protect and enhance water resources, and promote efficient and productive water use.
- ❖ The policy also recommends the establishment of the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Authority, the Water Policy Research Centre, and a unified Tamil Nadu Water Information System, among other initiatives.



## **NATIONAL**

### **45th meeting of PRAGATI**

- ❖ The Prime Minister chaired the 45th meeting of PRAGATI, which leverages the technology to enhance governance and project implementation.

- ❖ The meeting focused on eight projects, including six metro initiatives and one each for road connectivity and thermal power.
- ❖ PRAGATI stands for Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation.
- ❖ The platform encourages collaboration between central and state governments to ensure accountability and efficiency.

**Launched in 2015 PRAGATI**  
(Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) is a digital platform for project monitoring.  
Aimed at tackling delays in high-value infrastructure projects across India.

### Property cards under SVAMITVA scheme

**Major Achievements of SVAMITVA Scheme**

- 57 lakh property cards to be distributed in 46,351 villages across 10 States and 2 UTs on 27th December 2024
- Drone surveys completed in 3.17 lakh villages across multiple States/UTs
- 2.19 crore property cards prepared for 1.49 lakh villages so far
- Real-time tracking enabled through a centralized online dashboard; property cards accessible via DigiLocker app
- Survey-grade drones and Continuous Operating Referencing System network produce high-resolution maps, transforming the process of rural land demarcation

- ❖ The rural residential properties worth Rs 1.37 lakh crore could now be monetised for credit access under the SVAMITVA scheme.
- ❖ This initiative will be utilising drone technology for surveying and demarcating properties in rural areas.
- ❖ It aims to unlock the economic potential of villages and to improve financial inclusion.

- ❖ The SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) scheme was launched in 2020 under Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- ❖ So far, around 317,000 villages, or 92% of the total target of 344,000 villages, have been surveyed, with people having received their property cards in 136,000 villages.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu, Bihar, and Odisha, having updated rural land records, opted out of the scheme.

### **Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyan**

- ❖ This mission focused on improving nutrient sources and overall welfare in rural areas.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen the nutrition-related infrastructure and actively engage communities to tackle malnutrition.
- ❖ It encourages villages to adopt practices that ensure better nutrition and overall health.



**NATIONAL PROGRAM OF**  
**Veer Baal Diwas**

 26<sup>th</sup> December 2024

 Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

PM to inaugurate **Suposhit Panchayat Scheme**

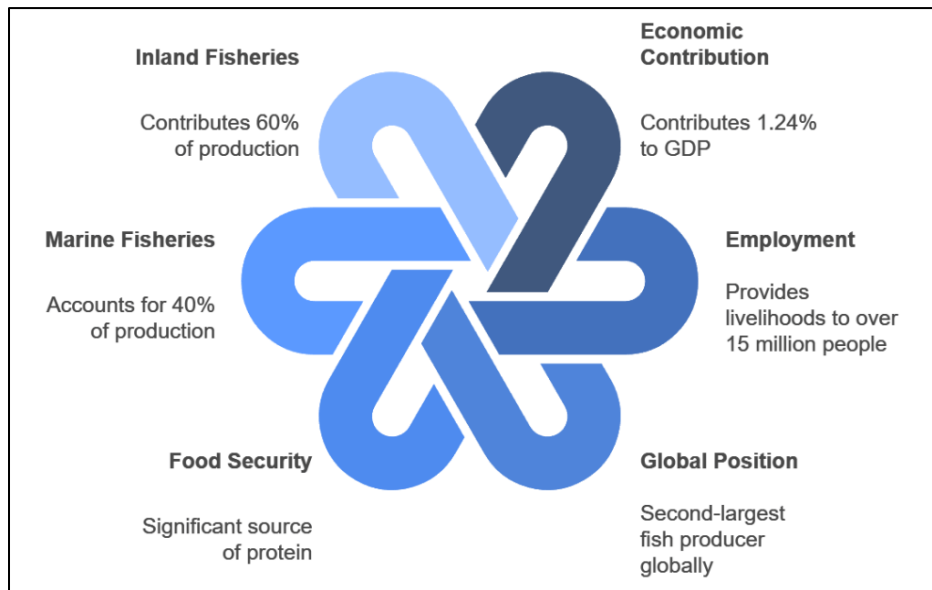
**3500 children, Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardees** and dignitaries to attend the event, with cultural performances showcasing India's heritage

*Celebrating the passion, perseverance, and potential of our young heroes*      *Let's cheer for the change makers of tomorrow!*

### **Matsya Seva Kendras and Sagar Mitras**

- ❖ Matsya Seva Kendras and Sagar Mitras help fishers by providing critical support, training, and information to improve productivity and sustainability.
- ❖ The country has witnessed an 83% increase in the national fish production since 2013-14, that stands at a record 175 lakh tons in 2022-23.

- ❖ With 75% of this coming from inland fisheries.
- ❖ India is the second-largest fish and aquaculture producer globally.
- ❖ 'Matsya Seva Kendras' (MSK) has been envisioned as one-stop solution to provide a range of extension services by trained aquaculture professionals.
- ❖ The governmental assistance to set up such Kendras for women and weaker sections is available to the extent of 60%.
- ❖ "Sagar Mitras" in coastal States and UTs played as a vital interface between the government and sea-borne fishers.
- ❖ They compile information and data on daily marine catch, price fluctuations, and requisite marketing needs at fish landing centres/harbours.
- ❖ They disseminate information to fishers on local regulations, weather forecasts, natural calamities, hygienic fish handling, and potential fishing zones in the seas.



## INTERNATIONAL

### Rwanda - End of Marburg Virus Outbreak

- ❖ Rwanda has successfully managed its first-ever Marburg Virus Disease (MVD) outbreak.
- ❖ A total of 66 confirmed cases and 15 fatalities were recorded during the outbreak.
- ❖ MVD is previously known as Marburg haemorrhagic fever.
- ❖ It is a severe and often fatal illness in humans, with an average case fatality rate of around 50 per cent.



- ❖ The virus is initially transmitted to humans from fruit bats and spreads through direct contact with the bodily fluids of infected individuals, as well as the contaminated surfaces and materials.
- ❖ The disease is named for Marburg, the German city where scientists became ill with the disease's first known cases in 1967.



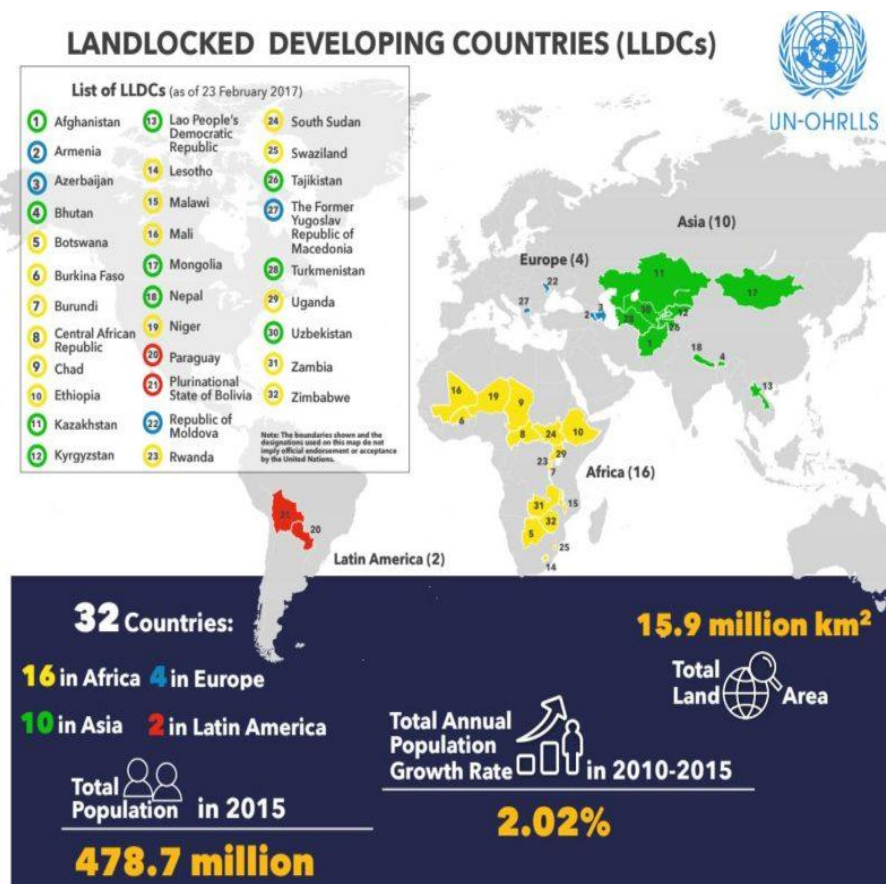
### **Mega Dam on Brahmaputra – China**



- ❖ China has approved the construction of the world's largest dam, costing \$137 billion, on the Brahmaputra River in Tibet.

- ❖ This is stated to be the planet's biggest infra project.
- ❖ This hydropower project is planned in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River, the Tibetan name for the Brahmaputra.
- ❖ China has already Operationalised the \$1.5 billion Zam Hydropower Station, the largest in Tibet in 2015.
- ❖ The Brahmaputra River flows across the Tibetan Plateau, carving out the deepest canyon on Earth and covering a staggering vertical difference of 25,154 feet before reaching India.

### 10-year action plan for landlocked countries



- ❖ The UNGA adopted a 10-year action program to address the unique challenges faced by landlocked developing countries.
- ❖ This resolution is titled the Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2024–2034.
- ❖ It builds on Vienna Programme of Action (2014-2024) & Almaty Programme of Action (2003).

- ❖ It aims to boost labour productivity & job opportunities across all sectors by 50% by 2034.
- ❖ It also focused on reduce disaster risk in LLDCs through full implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015– 2030.
- ❖ Landlocked countries are countries that do not have direct access to the sea.
- ❖ There are 32 landlocked developing countries with a population of about 570 million.

### **UN cybercrime treaty 2024**



- ❖ It aims at strengthening international cooperation to combat cybercrime and protecting societies from digital threats.
- ❖ The Convention against Cybercrime will open for signature in Hanoi, Vietnam, in 2025.
- ❖ It is first legally binding UN instrument on cybercrime & will enter into force 90 days after being ratified by 40th signatory.
- ❖ It establishes a global criminal justice policy to protect society against cybercrime by 'fostering international cooperation'.

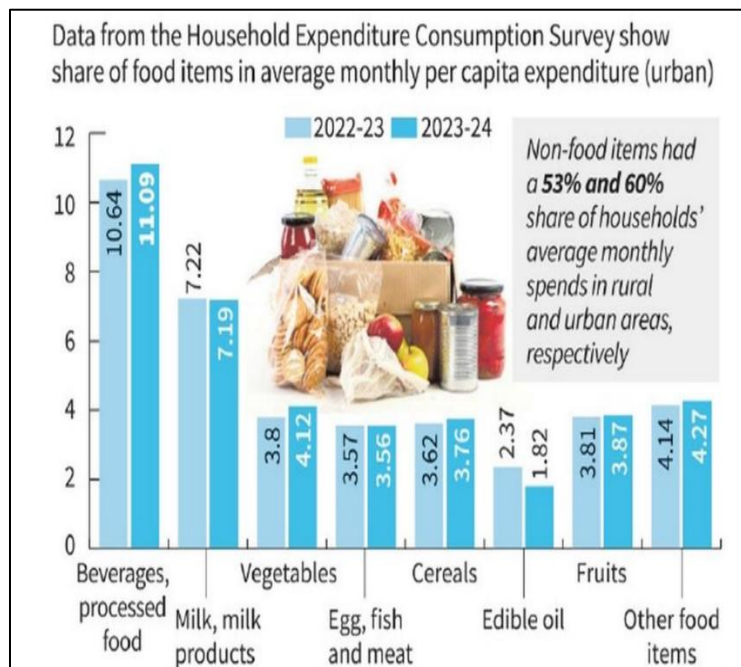
## **ECONOMY**

### **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023-2024**

- ❖ The MoSPI has conducted two consecutive surveys on household consumption expenditure during 2022-23 and 2023-24.
- ❖ In 2023-24, the average Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) for the bottom 5% of India's rural population is Rs 1,677.



- ❖ While for the same group in urban areas, it is higher at Rs 2,376.
- ❖ On the other hand, the top 5% of India's rural population spends an average of Rs 10,137, compared to Rs. 20,310 for their urban counterparts.
- ❖ The bottom 5% of India's rural population saw the largest increase in MPCE, with a notable 22% rise from 2022-23.
- ❖ For the equivalent group in urban areas, the growth was slightly lower at about 19%.
- ❖ Households across the country are spending more on non-food items.
- ❖ With these expenses making up 53% of average monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) in rural areas and 60% in urban areas.
- ❖ The main areas driving this non-food spending in 2023-24 include:
  - Transport (conveyance),
  - Clothing, bedding and footwear,
  - Entertainment and miscellaneous goods, and
  - Durable goods.
- ❖ In urban areas, rent also plays a significant role, accounting for about 7% of non-food expenditure.



### **Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2023**

- ❖ Profitability of banks improved for the sixth consecutive year in 2023-24.



- ❖ Their gross bad debts or NPAs declined to a 13-year low of 2.7 per cent.
- ❖ Banks' profitability rose for the sixth consecutive year in 2023-24 and continued to rise in H1:2024-25.
- ❖ Their return on assets (RoA) raised at 1.4 per cent and return on equity (RoE) at 14.6 per cent.
- ❖ The gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio is falling to its lowest in 13 years at 2.7 per cent at end-March 2024 and 2.5 per cent at end-September 2024
- ❖ At end-March 2024, India's commercial banking sector is consisted of 12 public sector banks (PSBs), 21 private sector banks (PVBs), 45 foreign banks (FBs), 12 SFBs, six PBs, 43 RRBs, and two LABs.
- ❖ Out of these 141 commercial banks, 137 were classified as the scheduled banks, while four were non-scheduled.
- ❖ The GNPA ratio of NBFCs was dropped to 3.4 per cent at end-September 2024.

## RBI REPORT ON BANKING TREND

- Asset Quality Improved, With GNPA Ratio Falling To Its Lowest In 13 Years At 2.7% at End-March 2024; At 2.5% At End-September 2024
- Banks' Profitability Rose For 6th Consecutive Year In 2023-24 & Continued To Rise In H1FY25 With RoA At 1.4% & RoE At 14.6%
- CRAR Of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) Was 16.8% At end-September 2024
- NBFC Sector Unsecured Lending Contracted & Asset Quality Improved Further
- GNPA Ratio Of NBFC Sector dropped to 3.4% At End-September 2024
- Strong Capital Buffers Of NBFC Sector Kept CRAR Well Above The Stipulated Norm At End-September 2024

## ENVIRONMENT

### Two red pandas from the Netherlands

- ❖ Two red pandas reached the Darjeeling Zoo (Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park) from Rotterdam in the Netherlands on Christmas.
- ❖ No red pandas were brought from any foreign country in the past 10 years.
- ❖ India have named the two red pandas Vishal and Koshi.

- ❖ Currently, the zoo has 19 red pandas (seven males, 12 females, and two cubs).
- ❖ The red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) is a small mammal native to the eastern Himalayas and southwestern China.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### PM Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024



- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Prime Minister's National Award on 17 children, in seven categories.



- ❖ It celebrates extraordinary accomplishments in seven categories: art and culture, bravery, innovation, science and technology, social service, sports and environment.
- ❖ The awardees — seven boys and 10 girls — were selected from 14 States and union territories.
- ❖ Sindhoora Raja (15) from Tamil Nadu was awarded for creating self-stabilising devices for Parkinson’s patients.
- ❖ Janane Narayanan (14) – the Carnatic music student from Chengalpattu also received this award.
- ❖ In 2023-24, she got the Kalaimamani Award instituted by the Tamil Nadu government.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **Veer Bal Divas 2024 - December 26**

#### **26th December – Veer Baal Diwas**

On this day, two sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Sahibzade Zorawar Singh Ji & Fateh Singh Ji attained martyrdom by being bricked alive in a wall after refusing to give up their faith

The bravery of Mata Gujri, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji & four Sahibzades gives strength to build a world that is just & inclusive

- ❖ The day marks the martyrdom of the four sons of Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Guru of the Sikhs.
- ❖ They showed extraordinary bravery and commitment to protect, uphold and to preserve Sikh values.
- ❖ Ajit Singh and Jujhar Singh, the two older sons, bravely gave their lives during the Battle of Chamkaur in December 1705.
- ❖ The Government of India started this day in 2022 to honor the courage, dedication, and sacrifice.

### **International Day of Epidemic Preparedness 2024 - December 27**

- ❖ It aims to raise the awareness of and strengthen preparedness for the pandemic across the globe.



- ❖ It was initiated by the UNGA in 2020 to take into account the experiences of the health crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ This day also serves to promote global solidarity and cooperation.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### Startups with Women Leaders – India

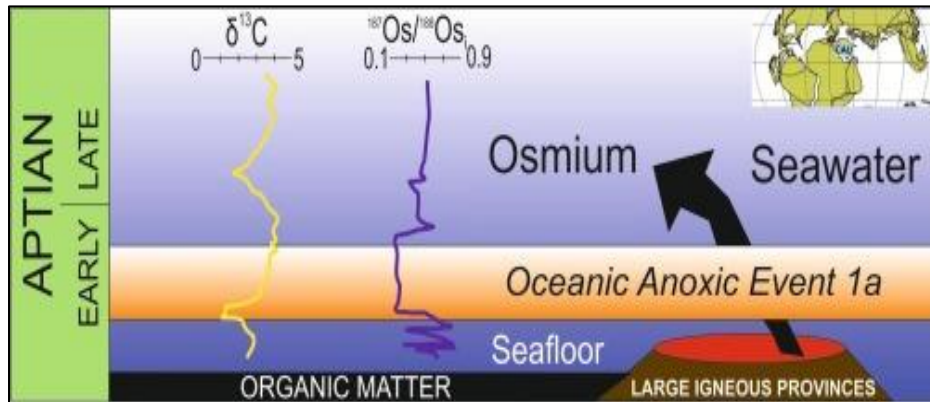


- ❖ India has more than 73,000 startups with at least one-woman director that have been recognised under the Startup India Initiative.
- ❖ This represents nearly half of the 1,57,066 startups supported by the government.

- ❖ In 2023, 13% of the overall funding in the domestic tech space came from women-led startups with women led startups securing \$1.1 billion.
- ❖ With over 100 unicorns, India has emerged as one of the most vibrant startup ecosystems globally.

### **Ocean Anoxic Event 1a**

- ❖ The Ocean Anoxic Event 1a (OAE 1a) was one of the largest disruptions of the global carbon cycle and climate system in the past 200 million years.
- ❖ New research has determined that it was triggered 119.5 million years ago and lasted for 1.1 million years, during the Early Cretaceous Period.
- ❖ This event caused a critical lack of oxygen in the oceans and led to extensive extinctions, particularly among plankton.
- ❖ The cause of OAE 1a was undersea volcanic eruptions, which resulted in a rapid injection of massive amounts of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the ocean and the atmosphere.



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